(a) whether any Panchayats have complained seriously against insufficient grants allotted by the Superintendent;

(b) whether the Superintendent will refrain from appropriating Panchayat funds at least hereafter for agricultural work, regard having had to the complaints from Panchayats?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—(a) Complaint in the matter of insufficiency of grants is almost general. Funds to the various Panchayats are not allotted by the Superintendent but by the Government.

(b) Funds allotted for Panchayat works are not appropriated by the Superintendent for agricultural works, when the former requires retention of the allotments. When savings accrue on account of the non-execution of Panchayat works, and when at the same time there is a demand for funds under some other sub-heads, say, agriculture, transfers are made with the approval of the Government.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—May I know whether the amount sanctioned for one Panchayat can be transferred to another Panchayat?

President.—From which part does that supplementary question arise?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—The question of that sort of transfer does not arise in that.

President.—If there is a demand for funds, transfers are made from this head to the Agricultural Department.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I want to know whether transfers are made from one Panchayat to another.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Sometimes it is done.

The basis in making nominations to the Village Panchayats.

'44. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state —

(a) on what basis is the Government nomination of the Panchayat members made;

(b) is it done in consultation with the local public or the elected members of the Panchayat or the Tahsildar;

(c) are the best available of the public nominated;

(d) is it a fact that a convicted person was nominated for the Parappukkara Panchayat;

(e) whether there were not complaints signed by distinguished people, including ex-members of the Panchayat, regarding the above nomination;

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(f) what action they have taken regarding the notice C. No. 720/1101 of the Superintendent of Panchayats and the reply thereto by the petitioner;

(g) was one Mr. Kondu Menon, a local gentleman, who was for some time an elected member of the Legislative Council, consulted before making this nomination?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—(a) Nominations are made from among candidates who are qualified under the rules framed by the Government in the matter and who are willing to make some self-sacrifice for public good.

(b) There is no hard and fast rule on the subject. The Government exercise their discretion in the matter.

(c) It is believed to be so.

(d) There is a complaint subsequently received that one of the nominated members is a convicted person.

(e) Yes.

(f) The matter is being enquired into.

(g) No.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Is it because on account of the non-consultation with the local public or the Panchayat or the Tahsildar that sometimes the nomination falls on the head of undesirable persons? I see that a convicted man is nominated when a gentleman who was for sometime an elected member of this Council, and who was also in the list of the persons, was present.

President.—What is your point?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—The Superintendent must go to the spot and make enquiries and suggest the best man available for the place.

President.—To whom are we to make enquiries?

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—To the respectable people of the locality.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—That is generally being done. I make enquiries about nominations.

President.—Then you must admire him the more.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—The Superintendent says that he makes enquiries. Then how is it that a convicted man was nominated, when a gentleman who was a member of this House was present and available?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—It is only a complaint, and the matter is being enquired into. The complaint that he is a convicted man has not been proved.

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President.—The question whether he has been convicted or not requires to be determined.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Was not that petition signed by many respectable persons of the locality? When was the complaint made? I want the date of the complaint.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—I want notice.

The inspection of the Panchayats by the Superintendent.

45. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state why, of all the Panchayats, the Superintendent visited 14 times in 1100 the Vilvattam Panchayat and the Ayyantole Panchayat, while the majority of the Panchayats were visited by him only once in the course of the year, and while some were neglected even of this privilege?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—There were three important irrigation works in Ayyantole and four in Vilvattam which required the Superintendent's constant supervision.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—There were three important irrigation works in Ayyanthole and four in Vilvattam. Whenever he goes to visit the irrigation works, are we to understand that he visits the respective Panchayats also?

President.—What is the question? You put the question in this way. "And are we to understand that, whenever the Superintendent goes for the inspection of the irrigation works, does he inspect the Panchayats also?"

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—That is my point.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Whether he means the Panchayats or the Panchayat offices, I do not understand.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Panchayat offices.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Not always.

President.—He does it whenever it is possible for him to do so.

The resolution passed by the Panchayats in Adur.

46. Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have received the resolution passed by the members of all the four Panchayats in the constituency of Adur and submitted on 3rd February 1926? If so, what steps have been taken by the Government on these resolutions?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Yes. The matter is under consideration.

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